

Smoking Deregulation Urged

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A spokesman for 23 airlines told the Civil Aeronautics Board at an oral hearing that it should revoke all its rules on smoking on commercial airplanes.

Kathleen Argiropoulos, an attorney for the Air Transport Association, stressed that the airlines, even without a government rule, will retain smoking and nonsmoking sections.

She said that without a regulation, the airlines would have more flexibility to meet the desires of passengers. This issue should be settled in the marketplace, she stressed. Argiropoulos predicted that competition among the airlines will further reduce the already steadily diminishing number of consumer complaints on smoking.

CAB is scheduled to be phased out within the next several years and, the ATA spokesman said, with the deregulation

the airline industry should be trusted to accommodate the preferences of its passengers.

Numerous Options

The CAB, a five-member Board, says that it has a number of options. According to the CAB, it can ban all smoking or keep the present segregated areas. It could drop its regulations, leaving the matter to the airlines, or it could modify its rules in any number of ways, including possibly establishing a buffer zone between the smoking and nonsmoking sections.

The American Lung Association and a Ralph Nader airline group urged a total ban. Action on Smoking & Health, an anti-smoking organization, presented a laundry list of suggestions, including banning smoking on flights two hours or less, and on planes with 30 seats or less.

Spokesmen for the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association said it would be unwise to ban smoking. The prohibition of smoking on airplanes is not feasible or appropriate, said John A. Oates, M.D., representing the Heart Association. "Smokers, too, have the right to smoke if they wish," he said.

The Tobacco Institute's chairman, Horace R. Kornegay, said, "The answer to the smoking question does not lie in more regulation, but in less.

"As air fares and routes are opened to increasing competition, government regulations designed to assure passenger comfort and satisfaction become an anachronism.

"Airline managers," Kornegay told the CAB, "can be counted on to do what their passengers want, fully aware that if they do not, they will lose business to competitors."

Quote of The Observer

Why do we pay attention to the news? To become better informed? To understand the world around us? In my carefree days of youthful innocence, that's what I thought. No more.

It has now become painfully clear to me that if a little learning is a dangerous thing, a lot of learning can be positively hazardous. The more carefully you follow the news, the more likely you are to become paralyzed by utter confusion.

The warning about coffee [and cancer], the beverage that jump starts America's cardiovascular system, is only the latest in a long, long line of examples.

For years, scientists were united in believing that heavy doses of cholesterol were bad for you. Then one day the all-clear sounded. Make that a large order of fries with the cheese omelette. Only, one grim day, in the middle of wolfing down a burgerbuster, the warning bells sounded again. Back to the whole grain cereals and corn oil, right? Not so fast.

It seemed clear that the only safe item to ingest was Maalox to cure the stomach ills caused by being well informed.

U. S. Tobacco Response

Smokeless Tobacco Defended

Smokeless tobacco has not been scientifically established to be a cause of any human disease, including oral cancer, says U. S. Tobacco Co., in response to a New England Journal of Medicine article claiming an association.

U. S. Tobacco, manufacturers of smokeless tobacco products, cited an

smokeless tobacco and oral disease," U. S. Tobacco said. The Connecticut-based company said it agrees with the scientists that more research is needed.

"We deplore the unscientific tone of this research article," U. S. Tobacco said. "The authors refer to the 'hazards' of smokeless tobacco use as if causation has been proven, when—as the Journal

—the question of whether or not smokeless tobacco is even statistically associated with oral disease has not been resolved."

The Surgeon General's report on tobacco use in 1979, the last to focus on this particular topic, was unable to determine any cause and effect relationship between smokeless tobacco and

BEWARE
OF



0665929202